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FLOOR DEBATE

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New Mexico payment that they got last year apparently. But we would have this approximately \$1.3 million coming in. Assuming we advanced this bill and the Governor signs it, why, we needed some place to direct this money, to be honest with you, and we brought this amendment directing the money to go to the State Treasurer for the credit of the Roads Operations Cash Fund. It's earmarking the money so it doesn't get lost in the process, somewhere or other. The Department of Roads helped us with the amendment. They support it. I think...I've talked to Senator Hudkins. I believe she supports it and has no problem with it so, with that, I would ask that we adopt the amendment and, questions, I'll try and answer them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on the Baker amendment, AM0386, to LB 166. Open for discussion. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President, and I was trying to track down Senator Baker in the last few minutes and engage him in a little discussion and I...and I...and I wasn't able to do that, so I don't want to...I don't want to blindsides him but in the last few minutes there have been some concerns expressed to me about the...the wisdom of doing what this amendment would do without further study or consideration to make sure we understand exactly what it means and that those people that are impacted by it are all aware of the...of the amendment, and he's had the prior amendment up so they certainly should...should have been. But what...what the amendment would do, and he explained I think pretty well, is that in the incentive monies that the state would become eligible for as a result of the passage of LB 166, it would specifically direct that those monies would go into this cash fund, which Senator Baker has correctly identified, and used for road construction. Now I...I could very well be for that and probably would be for that. I think we need all the money we can get to help meet our needs on the roads. However, the...the federal program that makes this money available says that, without...without this amendment the money could be...could be used for providing funding assistance for additional prosecution or court...additional needs of the courts or records personnel or equipment or training or highway safety issues. Now, I don't know if we're going to have